

DELEGATE BOROM: Mr. Chairman, I think I would object to having the "general public" removed from the amendment we have before us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well, Delegate Barrick. Will you have someone prepare the printed amendment as soon as possible?

Delegate Rybczynski?

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Is this an appropriate time to speak against this whole mess?

THE CHAIRMAN: If by "whole mess" you mean Amendment No. 21, it is a proper time to speak in opposition to the amendment.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, we went over these same questions that the other delegates are now shooting at each other for nine weeks. We went into the question of trying to set up election within each county at any time that the county wanted. Our decision was a result of the advice given us by many witnesses and the collective opinion of the majority of the Committee. I might add that the very same argument that Delegate Hanson gave this very morning in this same room does not support his own amendment.

He talked this morning about trying to put candidates in a position where they would be visible. We have tried to do this by making all county and city elections all the same day so that all elections would get plenty of visibility, attention and publicity.

I do not know what this thing here is designed to do. My opinion is that it is designed to lessen participation and to lessen visibility. All of a sudden everybody has forgotten about this theory that we heard so much about during the legislative article discussions.

Now, I might further add, just as Delegate Barrick has pointed out by his attempt to amend that when we were discussing the legislative article here, I thought we were talking about eliminating local legislation. Now we are throwing local legislation right back into the General Assembly. The whole thing, I will again say, is a mess.

You are right where we were on the first day of our first committee meeting, and you are going to be meeting for nine weeks trying to resolve all these same problems. Maybe you will want us to bring our witnesses in. We will bring them in so they

can talk to you about the same problems now.

I would strongly suggest that all these amendments to the amendments to the amendments be thrown out, and that you accept the Committee Recommendation. It is a good one.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Scanlan.

DELEGATE SCANLAN: May I use my time in support of the amendment to recapitulate.

The Committee's original proposal that the county elections be held in the odd-numbered years was rejected when we adopted Mr. Byrnes' amendment. His was the second alternative that the county elections would be held with state elections, except that the City of Baltimore would be given the privilege of holding its election in the odd-numbered years.

Obviously there is a great unhappiness with the Byrnes amendment. As Delegate Gallagher put it, it is not very sound constitutional drafting to single out any area of the State for an exception.

There is a third alternative, and that is the alternative proposed by Delegate Needle in an amendment that has not yet been printed which would freeze into the constitution the requirement that the county elections and state elections be held at the same time.

The fourth alternative is the one before you in the form of Amendment No. 21. I concede that it is too wordy. I concede that it is too lengthy. I firmly believe that the whole idea could be summarized in one clause, but I am afraid we are too far down the track for that.

The Committee on Suffrage and Elections has seen fit to bring in a detailed article and has raised this sort of problem. I am sorry that I and the sponsors of the amendment argue in favor of flexibility and disagree with the arguments of the Committee in favor of freezing into the constitution a particular manner of holding the county elections.

I am very sorry to disagree with my learned colleague, but I do think the issues under all four alternatives have been debated *ad nauseum*, now, for about three hours. I think that if we can get a vote on this "mess", as Delegate Rybczynski refers